

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The *final* Office Action dated August 22, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claim 1 is hereby amended; claims 4-6 are hereby canceled and claim 3 was previously canceled; and no claims are added. Accordingly, claims 1, 2 and 7 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Office rejected claims 1 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Korean Patent Publication No. P1996-0023421 to Daewoo Electronics co., Ltd. (hereinafter "*Daewoo*"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration.

Independent claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference in that claim 1 recites a method for controlling a washing machine comprising, at least, "controlling the wash course by dividing the wash cycle into three predetermined time intervals; wherein a first predetermined time interval is allocated for a step of resetting the wash cycle if the detection of the open state of the door; a second predetermined time interval is allocated for a step of sensing a second wet laundry amount if the detection of the open state of the door, and a step of controlling the wash course based on the second wet laundry amount; and a third predetermined time interval is allocated for a step of maintaining the wash course regardless of the detection of the open state of the door; wherein the first predetermined time interval starts from an initiation of the wash cycle, the third predetermined time interval finishes at an end of the wash cycle, and the second predetermined interval is between the first predetermined time interval and the third predetermined time interval." *Daewoo* does not teach at least these feature of the claimed invention.

Daewoo discloses "a method for sensing a load on a washing machine for ... enabling resetting of a load, and a washing time period if laundry is added in the middle of washing." *Daewoo* at abstract. *Daewoo* does not disclose controlling the wash course differently at each time interval. Therefore, *Daewoo* does not anticipate "controlling the wash course by dividing the wash cycle into three predetermined time intervals; wherein a first predetermined time

interval is allocated for a step of resetting the wash cycle if the detection of the open state of the door; a second predetermined time interval is allocated for a step of sensing a second wet laundry amount if the detection of the open state of the door, and a step of controlling the wash course based on the second wet laundry amount; and a third predetermined time interval is allocated for a step of maintaining the wash course regardless of the detection of the open state of the door; wherein the first predetermined time interval starts from an initiation of the wash cycle, the third predetermined time interval finishes at an end of the wash cycle, and the second predetermined interval is between the first predetermined time interval and the third predetermined time interval.” For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request the that the Office withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of independent claim 1. The rejection of claims 4-6 is moot as claims 4-6 are herein canceled.

The Office rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Daewoo* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,768,728 to Harwood et al. (hereinafter “*Harwood*”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration.

Harwood fails to cure the deficiencies of *Daewoo*. *Harwood* teaches “a method of determining a suitable fluid level for washing a load of laundry.” *Harwood* col. 2, lines 48-50. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion in *Harwood* of “controlling the wash course by dividing the wash cycle into three predetermined time intervals; wherein a first predetermined time interval is allocated for a step of resetting the wash cycle if the detection of the open state of the door; a second predetermined time interval is allocated for a step of sensing a second wet laundry amount if the detection of the open state of the door, and a step of controlling the wash course based on the second wet laundry amount; and a third predetermined time interval is allocated for a step of maintaining the wash course regardless of the detection of the open state of the door; wherein the first predetermined time interval starts from an initiation of the wash cycle, the third predetermined time interval finishes at an end of the wash cycle, and the second predetermined interval is between the first predetermined time interval and the third predetermined time interval,” as recited in independent claim 1.

Indeed, the Office only relied on *Harwood* to disclose “determining the load of laundry prior to admitting the water.” Office Action at p. 3, ¶7. Because none of the cited

references, either individually or in combination, teaches or suggests each and every element of independent claim 1, they also fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 7, which depend from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Office to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 7.

The Office rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Daewoo* in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 06-039183 to Toru. (hereinafter "*Toru*"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration.

Toru fails to cure the deficiencies of *Daewoo*. *Toru* teaches "setting ... the washing water stream and executing the washing in accordance with this set water stream." *Toru* at Abstract. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion in *Toru* of "controlling the wash course by dividing the wash cycle into three predetermined time intervals; wherein a first predetermined time interval is allocated for a step of resetting the wash cycle if the detection of the open state of the door; a second predetermined time interval is allocated for a step of sensing a second wet laundry amount if the detection of the open state of the door, and a step of controlling the wash course based on the second wet laundry amount; and a third predetermined time interval is allocated for a step of maintaining the wash course regardless of the detection of the open state of the door; wherein the first predetermined time interval starts from an initiation of the wash cycle, the third predetermined time interval finishes at an end of the wash cycle, and the second predetermined interval is between the first predetermined time interval and the third predetermined time interval," as recited in independent claim 1.

Indeed, the Office only relied on *Toru* to disclose "sensing the quantity of laundry at certain respectively specified intervals." Office Action at p. 3, ¶9. Because none of the cited references, either individually or in combination, teaches or suggests each and every element of independent claim 1, they also fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 2, which depend from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Office to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim .

The application is in condition for allowance. Early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

By


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